



STATE OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Testing Wisconsin's Emergency Communications "SIMCOM-Vital Connection 2015" in Winnebago County

(MADISON) – Communications are critical during a disaster. Getting information and data to the right people at the right time can save lives. That's why Wisconsin Emergency Management, Winnebago County Emergency Management and Sheriff's Office, and the Wisconsin National Guard are hosting a multi-agency communications exercise.

State Interoperable Mobile Communications Exercise or "SIMCOM-Vital Connection 2015" will be held May 5-7 at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh. The exercise is designed to display, educate and test Mobile Emergency Communications from more than 30 federal, state, tribal, local governments and volunteer agencies. The goal is to develop relationships and understand the capabilities of other agencies before they are needed in a real emergency. Specific operations being tested this year include data sharing, radio frequency bridging and patching, and network failures.

"Testing communication interoperability capabilities with outside resources before an actual disaster event occurs is critical to ensure the highest level of response," said Linda Kollmann, Winnebago County Emergency Management Director.

This is the second year that SIMCOM is hosted by Winnebago County. It is the first time the event has been held over a three day period.

Event Name: SIMCOM-Vital Connection 2015
Date: May 5 Training and Staging from 9am to 4pm
May 6 Exercise Day from 8:30am to 3:30pm
May 7 Advanced Exercise from 8:30am to Noon
Location: Sunnyview Expo Center
500 E. County Road Y
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Media interested in covering this event should contact Tod Pritchard at 608-219-4008 for more information.

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